



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 441**

February Session, 2000

Substitute House Bill No. 5285

*House of Representatives, April 5, 2000*

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99<sup>th</sup> Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***An Act Concerning The Commission On Human Rights And Opportunities.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 46a-52 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) The commission shall consist of nine persons. On and after the  
4 effective date of this act, such persons shall be appointed with the  
5 advice and consent of both houses of the General Assembly. (1) On or  
6 before July 15, 1990, the Governor shall appoint five members of the  
7 commission, three of whom shall serve for terms of five years and two  
8 of whom shall serve for terms of three years. Upon the expiration of  
9 such terms, and thereafter, the Governor shall appoint either two or  
10 three members, as appropriate, to serve for terms of five years. On or  
11 before July 14, 1990, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the  
12 minority leader of the Senate, the speaker of the House of  
13 Representatives and the minority leader of the House of

14 Representatives shall each appoint one member to serve for a term of  
 15 three years. Upon the expiration of such terms, and thereafter,  
 16 members so appointed shall serve for terms of three years. (2) If any  
 17 vacancy occurs, the appointing authority making the initial  
 18 appointment shall appoint a person to serve for the remainder of the  
 19 unexpired term. The Governor shall select one of the members of the  
 20 commission to serve as chairperson for a term of one year. The  
 21 commission shall meet at least once during each two-month period  
 22 and at such other times as the chairperson deems necessary. Special  
 23 meetings shall be held on the request of a majority of the members of  
 24 the commission after notice in accordance with the provisions of  
 25 section 1-225.

26 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 46a-57 of the general statutes is  
 27 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

28 (d) On or after October 1, 1998, the executive director shall designate  
 29 one human rights referee to serve as chief human rights referee for a  
 30 term of one year. The Chief Human Rights Referee shall supervise and  
 31 assign the human rights referees to conduct hearings on complaints,  
 32 including complaints for which a trial on the merits has not  
 33 commenced prior to October 1, 1998, on a rotating basis. The  
 34 commission, in consultation with the Chief Human Rights Referee,  
 35 shall develop regulations and rules of practice in accordance with  
 36 chapter 54 to ensure consistent procedures governing contested case  
 37 proceedings.

**PRI Committee Vote:** Yea 12 Nay 0 JFS C/R JUD

**JUD Committee Vote:** Yea 40 Nay 0 JF

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

---

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Affected Agencies:** Commission On Human Rights and Opportunities, Legislative Management

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation****State Impact:**

There will be no fiscal impact for the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) as a result of the passage of this bill. The bill requires both houses of the General Assembly to give advice and consent on persons who are appointed to the commission. This can be handled within the anticipated budgetary resources of the General Assembly. The bill requires CHRO to develop regulations to ensure consistent procedures governing contested case procedures. This responsibility can be handled within the anticipated budgetary resources of CHRO.

---

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 5285

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES.****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires that after September 30, 2000 people the governor and legislative leaders appoint as commissioners of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) would need the approval of both houses of the General Assembly. By law, the governor appoints five commissioners, and four legislative leaders appoint one each. The leaders are the president pro tempore of the senate, the senate minority leader, the speaker of the house, and the house minority leader.

The bill also requires CHRO, in consultation with the Chief Human Rights Referee, to develop regulations and rules to ensure consistent procedures governing contested case proceedings.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2000

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Program Review and Investigations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 12      Nay 0

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 40      Nay 0